

**In the Claims:**

**Claims 1 to 9 (cancelled).**

**Claim 10 (currently amended)**      An electrolytic cell for halogen gas production

comprising:

- a housing of two half-shells made of electrically conductive material;
- anodic and cathodic electrodes (4, 5) with an electrolytic membrane (6) arranged therebetween;
- at least one of said half-shells being provided with built-in components permitting a defined increase in the liquid level over the top edge of said electrolytic membrane (6), said built-in components forming an internal trough (7) having one major surface parallel to the electrolytic membrane (6) and spaced therefrom by a first interspace (9, 14);
- a second interspace (10, 15) inclined both outwards and upwards with respect to the horizontal plane as seen from said electrolytic membrane (6) being established between said trough (7) and the upper side of said at least one half-shell, said trough (7) having at least one opening communicating with said second interspace (10, 15) and at least one outlet and the highest point of said second interspace (10, 15) is located above said top edge of said electrolytic membrane (6).

**Cancel Claim 11.**

**Claim 12 (previously presented)** The cell of claim 10 wherein said trough (7) is arranged horizontally.

**Claim 13 (presently presented)** The cell of claim 10 wherein said second interspace (10, 15) is implemented as a 2 to 3 mm wide gap.

**Claim 14 (presently presented)** The cell of claim 10 wherein said second interspace (10, 15) is implemented as a variable gap provided with straight, corrugated or arched delimiting surfaces.

**Claim 15 (presently presented)** The cell of claim 10 wherein said second interspace (10, 15) is equipped with a perforated plate arranged in parallel to said electrolytic membrane (6) or slightly inclined therefrom.

**Claim 16 (currently amended)** ~~The cell of claim 10 wherein~~ An electrolytic cell for halogen gas production comprising:

- a housing of two half-shells made of electrically conductive material;
- anodic and cathodic electrodes (4, 5) with an electrolytic membrane (6) arranged therebetween;
- at least one of said half-shells being provided with built-in components permitting a defined increase in the liquid level over the top edge of said electrolytic membrane (6), said built-in components forming an internal trough (7) having one major surface parallel to the electrolytic membrane (6) and spaced therefrom by a first interspace (9, 14);

- a second interspace (10, 15) inclined both outwards and upwards with respect to the horizontal plane as seen from said electrolytic membrane (6) being established between said trough (7) and the upper side of said at least one half-shell, said trough (7) having at least one opening communicating with said second interspace (10, 15) and at least one outlet,

the said second interspace (10, 15) is equipped with duct bundles, the axes of said ducts lying in the plane of said second interspace (10, 15).

**Claim 17 (previously presented)**      The cell of claim 16 wherein said ducts are circular or honeycomb-structured.

**Claim 18 (previously presented)**      The cell of claim 10 wherein a multiplicity of beads, webs, nipples or other spacers are installed in said second interspace (10, 15).

**Claim 19 (previously presented)**      The cell of claim 10 wherein said built-in components forming the trough (7) are at least partly coated to ensure adequate corrosion protection.

**Claim 20 (previously presented)**      Electrolytic device for halogen gas production from aqueous alkali halide solution comprising plate-type electrolytic cell stacked and arranged side by side, at least one of said electrolytic cells being a cell of claim 10.